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EVAN RACHEL WOOD GOES ROMANIAN

THE ACTRESS ON HER "COUNTRYMAN" ROLE. PAGE 17

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Wednesday, November 20, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

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Smoking age raised to 21

Light up. Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed a bill yesterday that would legally raise the age to buy cigarettes in New York City from 18 to 21 in mid-May. **What a drag.** Opponents say the bill limits freedom and that teens will find their smokes somewhere else. PAGE 02

The Marvel superheroes you need to meet now

PAGE 20

Rent is too damn high, but so many still rent

PAGES 30-32

Jets coach brings Army discipline to the team

PAGE 43

Birdman of Bushwick

PAGE 02

Christopher Benson of Brooklyn finds and fosters sick city pigeons in his apartment.

BESS ADLER, METRO

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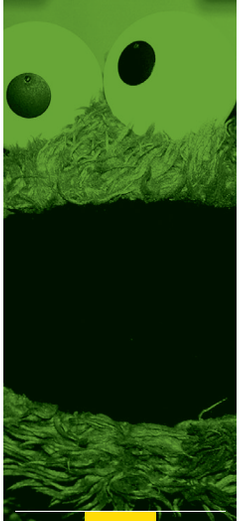
NEWS

Quoted

"They've never seen a dumpster occupied like this before. And now it has beautiful lights and work inside, and people hanging out from the community."

Joaquin Reyes, one of the co-creators of a plan to turn city dumpsters into portable art galleries.

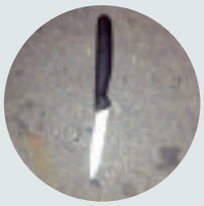


Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1. 'VIDEO: Cookie Monster stars in 'Catching Fire' parody'
2. 'VIDEO: Harvard students are stumped on Canada's capital'
3. 'VIDEO: Rapper Watsky attempts 30-foot stage jump, fails terribly'

In Brooklyn



Officer kills man wielding steak knife

An officer shot and killed a man police said was wielding a steak knife in Brooklyn Monday afternoon.

Rexford Dasrath, 22, was shot by an officer in the left hand and torso after police said he lunged at the cop while holding the knife.

Police said two uniformed officers responded to a 3 p.m. call about a landlord-tenant dispute: Dasrath's landlord at his home on Hart Street in Bushwick said Dasrath was threatening to kill him.

When the cops arrived at the scene, police said Dasrath banged the 7-inch knife against the window. The officers drove around the corner. They returned soon after, and they again encountered Dasrath. One of the officer asked Dasrath to drop the knife.

As they approached, he lunged at one of the officers with a weapon, police said.

The officer fired five shots, police said. Dasrath reportedly died on the way to Woodhull Hospital.

ANNA SANDERS AND DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

New York City's pigeon whisperer

Birds of a feather. A Bushwick man fosters sick pigeons back to health.

Christopher Benson is nursing Lopez back to health before he releasing him into the wild. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Christopher Benson is unlike many New Yorkers in one big way: He likes pigeons. In fact, he finds other people's distaste for pigeons "really bizarre."

"The idea is that pigeons are garbage, you know?" he said. "I don't know, the whole flying rat thing."

But Benson said that perception couldn't be more wrong.

Since the first bird he rescued, who he named Boy George, Benson and his girlfriend have found a total of seven injured pigeons.

He has taken two of them home to his Bushwick apartment.

The first one he took home was found in Union Square. He first went to the Wild Bird Fund Center on the Upper West Side, where they gave him medicine for the bird's lead poisoning. But ultimately the pigeon died.

He is giving foster care to the second bird, Lopez, until he can be released into the wild.

Benson keeps the bird in a dog carrier in front of his open window "so he can acclimate to the winter, because he's going to be released and it's going to be cold."

Lopez wanders around in the large loft bathroom for exercise.

Benson and Lopez have grown very close.

"He actually started to preen me," Benson said.

He worries about Lopez not learning important survival skills before he's set loose, like dodging cars and not perching on the third rail on outdoor subway routes.

But Benson is looking forward to Lopez's release into the wild — he said that he anticipates his winged buddy will be set free somewhere in Central Park.

Flying rats

"They're not dumb, by any means. They're really inquisitive. They have personalities, they're sweet, they're affectionate."

Christopher Benson

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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Bloomberg signs 'Tobacco 21' bill

Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed what's known as the "Tobacco 21" bill Tuesday, effectively raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. Officials hope it will reduce the number of young New York smokers.

A companion bill sets a price floor on packs of cigarettes and little cigars at $10.50 and establishes stricter fines and violations for stores selling tobacco products.

The age to buy cigarettes in NYC will become 21. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"People always try to put things like selling cigarettes in the context of jobs and whether or not it helps or hurts stores. I think that's so outrageously misplaced. This is an issue of whether we're going to kill people."

Bloomberg

The mayor said those making an economic argument against the bill "really ought to look in a mirror and be ashamed."

Critics have also said that younger New Yorkers will find other ways of obtaining tobacco products.

Health Commissioner Thomas Farley said the bill "will protect our teenagers from getting addicted before they realize it."

The laws will take effect mid-May. **ANNA SANDERS**

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De Blasio's NYC

Could Bill Bratton become NYPD top cop again?

Former NYPD commissioner Bill Bratton would be "giving up an awful lot of money" to be New York police commissioner under Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio, he said in an interview on Tuesday.

Bratton's name has been floated as one of de Blasio's picks for the position of top cop.

Bratton currently has a contract as a commentator with NBC and makes a good deal of money off of public speaking engagements around the world, he said.

He said that he would also have to put his two companies in a blind trust — as, he noted, Mayor Michael Bloomberg did.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

5Pointz graffiti is painted white ahead of demolition

Mourned. Parts of the "graffiti mecca" were painted white before its upcoming demolition.

Artist Anthony Martinez came to mourn the painting of 5Pointz. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Hours after nearly all the graffiti at 5Pointz was covered in white paint, artists made another pilgrimage to the outdoor art exhibit and "graffiti mecca" in Long Island City — this time, to mourn.

"It was more than just graffiti," said Dready Kruger, an emcee who did music for 5Pointz events. "I met people from all around the world at this place."

Jerry Wolkoff, who owns the 200,000 square feet of warehouses, ordered the early Tuesday paint job in preparation for the property's demolition next year.

"I thought it was better to do so we don't go through this torture," Wolkoff said, noting the demolition will take months. "Imagine every time a bulldozer goes by and another piece goes — I'd imagine it'd be torture to them, the artists."

Wolkoff plans to turn the site into luxury housing, a move approved by City Council in October. A lawsuit was filed in federal court by 17 graffiti artists hoping to save the art, but a judge refused to issue an injunction against the demolition last week.

Artists tried to designate 5Pointz as a landmark, but the warehouses didn't meet the standards, Wolkoff said.

"They paint over their stuff over and over again," he said. "If it were landmarked, they could never paint there again."

The development will include 32,100 feet of public space, a park playing homage to the site's artistic past, art studios and wall space designated for aerosol art.

Still, artists feel 5Pointz deserved better.

"Something like this isn't just a building," graffiti artist Chayenne Chaka said in October. "It's a piece of history."

Wolkoff said he teared up watching the art being painted over.

"We take the medicine now, it's over with, we go on," Wolkoff said.

ANNA SANDERS
anna.sanders@metro.us

Meaning

"It was more than just graffiti. I met people from all around the world at this place."
Dready Kruger, emcee for 5Pointz

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Central Park

Police ID person of interest in park rape

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a person of interest in connection with the rape of a woman that happened in Central Park last weekend.

Police want to talk to Omar Hoist, 32, about the attack, according to the NYPD.

The woman met her assailant about 3:30 a.m. Sunday near 88th Street and Fifth Avenue, police said. They later sat on a bench inside the park, which is when the suspect reportedly turned violent. He then dragged her to a grassy area and raped her, police said.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). **LAURA SHIN**

Ozone Park

Man found stabbed to death, bound in basement

A man was found stabbed to death and bound to a chair in a Queens basement after a neighbor who heard cries for help called police Tuesday morning, officials said.

Officers found the adult man, who has not yet been otherwise identified, dead in the South Ozone Park residence on 131st Street about 4:50 a.m. after the first floor tenant called 911, police said.

Duct tape was used to bind the man to a chair in the basement. Police said he had trauma to the head and had suffered multiple stab wounds.

The motive for the stabbing is unclear, officials said. No arrests have been made. **ANNA SANDERS**

Dumpsters become art galleries for urbanites

Trashy art. Two artists use Kickstarter to fund a project that would bring dumpster galleries to city streets.

The dumpster spaces could easily be located around the city. / DEPARTMENT OF URBAN BETTERMENT

Art and innovation have many homes in New York City. Now, some New Yorkers want to bring those things to an unexpected place: dumpsters.

The Inflato Dumpster project aims to top garbage containers with futuristic, inflatable shells, creating temporary spaces on the streets of New York that provide places for people to work, learn and play.

"We want to create an inflatable space inside of a dumpster out in the street," said Joaquin Reyes, one of the creators of the Inflato Dumpster project.

Reyes and fellow co-creator John Locke, who operate as the "Department of Urban Betterment," hope to deploy the first Inflato Dumpster somewhere in the Upper West Side early next year.

For five days, artists, filmmakers, engineers and the like will exhibit works and lead workshops inside the dumpster.

Why dumpsters? They're inexpensive and readily available, and they can be placed nearly anywhere with a permit from the Department of Transportation, say Locke and Reyes. But there's also a symbolic value.

"We are always looking for overlooked sites that have some potential for transformation," Locke said.

By the numbers

$3.7K

The duo funded their project through the crowd-funding website Kickstarter, raising $3,700 over a 30-day period.

From waste to art

"I was drawn to the idea of turning something typically associated with waste and discarded materials into a space for something exciting and new."

Locke

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METRO

New report

Average class size increases at NYC schools

Class sizes at New York City public schools have increased for the sixth consecutive year, according to a preliminary report from the city's Department of Education.

The average citywide class size increased 0.6 percent from last year, from 26.4 students to 26.5 students, according to the report.

Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio has said he would make reducing class sizes a key part of his education plan, particularly in the early grades levels and in struggling schools.

LAURA SHIN

JP Morgan to pay $13B to settle crisis lawsuit

New York state will see $1 billion of the settlement. / GETTY IMAGES

Aftermath. The attorney general said the funds will help those still hurting from the fiscal crisis.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced Tuesday the outcome of the suit he brought against JP Morgan more than a year ago.

The financial giant will pay out $13 billion to injured parties — the largest settlement with a single entity in U.S. history, according to the attorney general. The case centers around JP Morgan reportedly selling fraudulent securities during the financial crisis in 2000. Schneiderman said more than $1 billion will go to New York state.

More than $600 million of that $1 billion will be paid out in cash. An additional $400 million in "consumer relief" is expected though the figure is still being worked out, he said.

The cash will be divvied up for several uses, Schneiderman said. One use will be to fund legal services for those suffering from the aftereffects of the fiscal crisis.

Jennifer Ching, director of Queens Legal Services, said her office is packed with people still struggling.

The money will also help New Yorkers impacted by superstorm Sandy.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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Scales of justice

"New Yorkers are getting good justice in this settlement."
Eric Schneiderman

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Health care website contains security bugs

Rollout. The site has been bedeviled by technical glitches since its launch on Oct. 1.

The website at the center of U.S. President Barack Obama's health care overhaul has security flaws that put user data at "critical risk" despite recent government assurances it is safe to use, a respected security expert said on Tuesday.

"There are actual, live vulnerabilities on the site now," David Kennedy, head of computer security consulting firm TrustedSec LLC, told Reuters before testifying at a congressional hearing on the topic "Is My Data on HealthCare.gov Secure?"

Kennedy, a former U.S. Marine Corps cyber-intelligence analyst, presented a 17-page report describing the problems to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. It does not go into specifics in some areas, he said, because that could provide criminals with a blueprint for launching attacks.

"There is a lot of stuff that we are not publicly disclosing because of the criticality of the findings," Kennedy said. "We don't want to hurt people."

When asked to describe the severity of the threat that they posed to the public, he said it was a "critical risk." REUTERS

The Obama administration said on Tuesday the website was safe to use. / GETTY IMAGES

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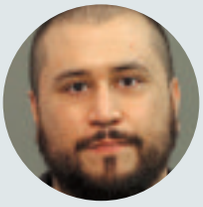
In trouble again

Judge grants Zimmerman bond after arrest



George Zimmerman was granted bail on Tuesday after his arrest on assault charges for an incident in which he is alleged to have pulled a shotgun on his girlfriend.

Zimmerman's bail was set at $9,000 by a Seminole County Judge Fred Schott, who said he found probable cause for Monday's arrest.

The judge set Jan. 7 as the date for Zimmerman's next appearance in court on charges stemming from the domestic dispute, when he allegedly pointed a shotgun at his girlfriend. Zimmerman appeared in court after spending the night in jail. His charges include aggravated assault with a firearm, a felony, and two misdemeanors — domestic violence and criminal mischief. He could face three to 15 years in jail. REUTERS

Report. Virginia state senator stabbed in home; son found dead

A Virginia state senator was stabbed and seriously wounded at his home early on Tuesday, and police said they were investigating whether the senator's son may have carried out the attack before committing suicide.

Creigh Deeds, a 55-year-old Democrat who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2009, was flown to the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville with stab wounds to his head and upper body, a Virginia State Police spokeswoman said.

His 24-year-old son, Austin "Gus" Deeds, was alive at the home in Millboro when police arrived, police said, but died at the scene of a gunshot wound.

"We're still looking into and leaning toward it being an attempted murder-suicide. But at this time, it's not concrete," spokeswoman Corinne Geller told reporters. REUTERS

Virginia State Senator Creigh Deeds / GETTY IMAGES

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US and Afghanistan agree on security pact ahead of meeting

U.S. Army soldiers walk to their C-17 cargo plane for departure May 11, 2013, at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. / GETTY IMAGES

Troops. The deal was reached just two days before they gather to debate the pact.

The United States and Afghanistan have agreed a final version of a crucial security pact outlining where and how many U.S. troops can remain in Afghanistan after most foreign forces leave the country next year, an Afghan official said.

Thousands of Afghan tribal and political leaders are due to gather in Kabul this week to decide whether to allow U.S. troops to stay after the 2014 drawdown of foreign forces.

The deal will contain provisions to give U.S. troops immunity from Afghan law and allow them to enter Afghan homes in exceptional circumstances.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has long objected to both but the United States has said the provisions are crucial in order for its forces to remain in the country beyond 2014.

Aimal Faizi, a Karzai spokesman, said the agreement was partly owed to a promise by U.S. President Barack Obama to write a letter to the Afghan people acknowledging mistakes made during the 12-year war. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"The whole idea of having a letter was to acknowledge the suffering of the Afghan people and the mistakes of the past. That was the only thing that satisfied the president." Hamid Karzai

Sensitivity

UAE, Kuwait jail two Twitter users for dissent, blasphemy

A United Arab Emirates court has jailed a man for two years for tweeting about a political trial and Kuwait handed a five-year prison term to a Kuwaiti Twitter user for insulting the Prophet Mohammad, activists and a lawyer said on Tuesday.

The cases and similar previous prosecutions highlight the sensitivity of Gulf Arab states to political dissent, criticism of senior officials, ruling family members and to comments they regard as blasphemous, especially on social media.

Activists said Walid al-Shehhi, who was arrested in May, was convicted on Monday of violating the country's Internet crime law by a court in the capital Abu Dhabi. He was also fined $136,100. **REUTERS**

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- Alison Peters, MS

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Sign-in starts at 6:00 pm; lecture begins at 6:30 pm.
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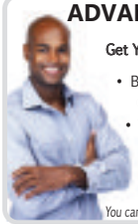

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In the family

John Edwards and his daughter launch new firm

Former Sen. John Edwards is opening a new law firm with his eldest daughter, he said on Tuesday, shedding the low profile he has kept since standing trial last year on campaign finance fraud charges.

The firm, billed as a national plaintiffs' practice with offices in Raleigh, N.C., and Washington, D.C., marks a return to the career where he made his fortune by winning multimillion-dollar verdicts in personal injury and product liability cases before entering politics. REUTERS

KATE EDWARDS AND HER FATHER JOHN
GETTY IMAGES

Phone records

Norway denies US spying, said it shared with US

Norway's intelligence services said it — and not the U.S. National Security Agency, as reported in a Norwegian newspaper — kept records on more than 33 million phone conversations over the space of one month last winter, Oslo said on Tuesday.

The daily Dagbladet newspaper said the U.S. NSA spied on close NATO ally Norway, collecting data about Norwegian phone conversations last December and January. REUTERS

THE FLAG OF NORWAY
GETTY IMAGES

Deadly Midwest storm damage might be $1B

Twisters. The storm system triggered multiple tornadoes on Sunday.

Residents of a small central Illinois city hit by a powerful tornado were allowed back to comb through the wreckage of their homes for personal belongings on Tuesday, two days after the deadly storm caused an estimated $1 billion in property damage across the Midwest.

Authorities doubled to 1,000 their estimate of homes damaged or destroyed in the storm that hit Washington, a town of 15,000 located 145 miles southwest of Chicago.

Hundreds of Washington residents were cleaning out belongings and loading things onto trucks Tuesday, to the sound of chain saws cutting through fallen trees.

Dick Bowers was looking through the remains of his son's destroyed home for a filing cabinet filled with personal papers.

"Early damage estimates suggest that the property damage caused by the storm could reach $1 billion, with the greatest toll in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri, according to Risk Management Solutions, a Newark, Calif.-based company that specializes in assessing the toll of storms and other disasters. REUTERS

People survey the damage in the Washington Estates subdivision in the aftermath of a tornado in Washington, Ill. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"My daughter-in-law lay on their 2-month-old baby and my son lay on them ... I'm amazed they made it out alive." Bowers

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Kenya. Investigators piece together plot in September mall attack

Four gunmen who attacked a Nairobi shopping mall in September came to Kenya about four months earlier and some had exercised at a gym in an area of the Kenyan capital popular with Somalis, Western officials with knowledge of the investigation said.

Kenyan police, with help from several Western nations, are piecing together events leading up to the assault on Westgate mall, which killed at least 67 people and which highlighted the reach of Somalia's al Qaeda-aligned Islamist group Al Shabaab.

Tracking down where the gunmen stayed and how they spent their time before the strike has led to a suburb of Nairobi known as "Little Mogadishu" because of its large Somali population and a small gym on the first floor of Eastleigh Mall, a shopping complex in the area.

"We know where they lived. We know the gym several of them used. We know when they acquired the vehicle," said one of the Western officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

He said all four gunmen, who had spent time together in Somalia before the attack, had crossed into Kenya overland in June. "They came in through a common entry point," the official said, without saying where that was. **REUTERS**

Working it out

A trainer at the New Andalus Gym, where the schedule posted at the door is written in both English and Somali, said criminal investigators had visited twice about two weeks ago. He said the officers said they had information the gunmen worked out there.

Fifty trapped in building collapse

At least one person was killed and up to 50 more were trapped under rubble on Tuesday after a soccer pitch-sized section of a shopping mall under construction collapsed near the South African city of Durban, emergency services and police said. If safety regulations are found to have been flouted, the accident could hurt the ruling African National Congress as it moves toward an election next year. Durban and the surrounding province of KwaZulu-Natal are the home of President Jacob Zuma. The region has enjoyed a construction boom in the last few years, based in part on government investment in infrastructure improvements. **REUTERS** / GETTY IMAGES

Kazan plane crash

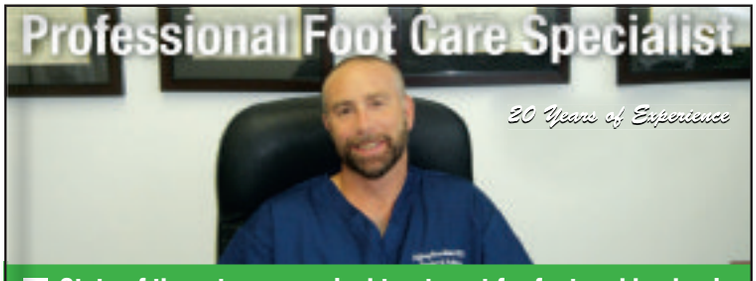
Russia: Pilot had put plane into nosedive

The pilot of an airliner that crashed near the Russian city of Kazan killing 50 people had pushed the steering column to pitch it into a nosedive, crash investigators said on Tuesday, citing data recorder analysis.

The Interstate Aviation Committee offered no explanation why the pilot of the Boeing 737 jet might have performed the maneuver after aborting a first attempt to land.

Aksan Giniyatullin, the CEO of Tatarstan airlines which operated the jet, told a news conference: "The lead pilot had never made a second landing attempt under real flight conditions."

Video of the crash showed the aircraft, approaching Kazan on a flight from Moscow, plummeting headlong into the tarmac and exploding. **REUTERS**



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DOUGLAS COUPLAND

Douglas Coupland is a Canadian writer, artist and designer. His first novel was 1991's "Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture." His novella, "Temp," of which this is the 11th installment, will be running online and in the pages of your daily Metro each weekday through Nov. 29.

Day 13: Temp does ambulance duty

DISNEY

I asked Darren to put Dan into the BMW's backseat. "If we dump him by the door at Crown, they'll be forced to take pity on him."

Darren rifled through the glove compartment. "Look! A Blackberry Z10!" The Blackberry then promptly rang (ringtone: "Dust in the Wind" by Kansas). "Hello?"

A woman squawked on the other end. I grabbed the receiver. "Hello, who's this?"

"It's Chantelle, Dan's wife. Who's this?"

"I'm Shannon. I'm a temp at Dan's office. He had an accident and we're trying to take him to a hospital but he doesn't have his credit cards so nobody wants him."

"Come to our house and pick me up."

"Aren't you in Florida?"

"I found a card with a pile of unused frequent flyer miles so I returned early."

Chantelle was on the curb. Her lips were swollen like Donald Duck's beak, and it was hard to not stare.

"I know I look strange but I never expected to get old and then one day it happened and, as you can see, I'm not handling it well. I know I look ridiculous."

On cue both Darren and I chimed, "No, you look great!"

Darren added, "I'm sure your lips will look terrific once they deflate, Chantelle."

Chantelle was unruffled by the sight of Dan in the back, and with me at the wheel and Darren in the passenger seat looking and smelling very street-y. Chantelle removed a fifth of vodka from her purse. "Any takers?"

Darren eagerly accepted, and we soon arrived at Crown Permanente. "You two lug him in," she said. "I'll handle the staff."

"You've got your credit cards, then?"

"Cards shmards. A well-dressed, well-nourished white woman with obvious cosmetic surgery is welcome in any hospital on the planet."

Dang if she wasn't right. The supermodel nurse beamed at her, while another fetched her a cappuccino and asked which satellite music station she preferred. We dropped Danimal's carcass inside the door and two hot guys who looked like Qantas flight attendants whisked him away. It couldn't have been more pleasant.

"You two wait in the car. I'll be out in a sec."

Chantelle soon emerged and got into the backseat. "Shannon, take me home. Darren, you stay the night at my place. We can party and maybe you can take a shower later. Dan's clothes will fit you, too.

Shannon, you keep the car for a few days."

"Seriously?"

"I may be aging gracelessly, but I'm no idiot like Kevin's wife. Just promise me you won't set fire to it."

"It's a promise."

I feel like a bad person, but I was so excited to have a Beemer for a few days that I forgot to ask what was wrong with Dan.

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CULTURE

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Here's how to enter: Share your 'stache by posting a photo on Facebook or Twitter tagging @MetroNewYork and @Heights_Kenchi using the hashtag #MetroStache from now until Nov. 30. A winner will be chosen at random. Now, get growing!

Was Brittany Murphy poisoned?

1

When Brittany Murphy passed away suddenly in 2009, the official cause of death was pneumonia and anemia. Most people assumed that, in the case of a super-skinny, erratic starlet, it was a euphemism for death by drug abuse. When her husband, Simon Monjack, died just five months later of the same cause — pneumonia and anemia — that fit neatly in with the theory.

However, Murphy's father, Angelo Bertolotti, wasn't satisfied. He recently secured the rights to send samples of Murphy's hair and tissue to a lab for independent testing. The Examiner has the lab report, and it tells a shockingly different story:

"Ten of the heavy metals evaluated were detected at levels higher than the [World Health Organization] high levels. ... If we were to eliminate the possibility of a simultaneous accidental heavy metals exposure to the sample donor, then the only logical explanation would be an exposure to these metals administered by a third-party perpetrator with likely criminal intent."

Heavy metals such as those found at high levels in Murphy's body are often present in rat poison and insecticides. They can cause all of the symptoms that Murphy and Monjack suffered before their deaths.

It is hard to remember all the way back to 2007 when Murphy and Monjack were married, but the two were frequently the target of tabloid speculation. Monjack had a shady criminal past, and once he married Murphy, she started to act increasingly strange and was soon scarily gaunt. Murphy started losing jobs — she was allegedly fired from "The Caller" due to being difficult (with Monjack picking fights). Shortly before her death, Monjack was rushed to a hospital after his plane landed at LAX. TMZ reported that Monjack was incoherent when EMTs boarded the plane. An asthma attack was blamed.

To make it even weirder, Sharon Murphy, Brittany's mother, continued to live with Monjack after her daughter's death, even sharing a bed with him.

Hollywood is a weird, scary place, man.

— With additional reporting by Melinda Taub

Brittany Murphy passed away suddenly in 2009 at the age of 32. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Who needs a jacket?

Kim Kardashian stepped out in New York City on Monday wearing this sheer get-up, knowing all eyes would be on her this week. On Tuesday, "Bound 2," Kanye West's new music video featuring a naked Kardashian, debuted on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." In the video, the new mom can be seen straddling West topless while he drives a motorcycle through the desert. It's really ... something.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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Lovato: 'I didn't twerk, I just went to rehab'

2

How can Demi Lovato put this nicely? All of Miley Cyrus' tongue-wagging, naked antics might be distracting attention from her singing.

"A lot of artists take that route of shock value, and that's totally fine and that's great, but I think that she has an incredible voice that's overshadowed by some of the things that she's doing," Lovato tells Katie Couric during an interview.

Still, she's sympathetic to her longtime friend. "I think that the world needs to get over the fact that she was Hannah Montana when she was 16 or whatever," the former child star says. "Same thing with me, but I guess my transition was a little different because I went straight to rehab. I didn't twerk, I just went to rehab."

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MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE

Evan Rachel Wood plays a Romanian woman fought over by two men in "Charlie Countryman." / WIREIMAGE

Interview. Evan Rachel Wood talks "Charlie Countryman" and missing television.

Evan Rachel Wood is more than an ingenue. She's a serious actor, with a list of impressive performances — an experimenting teen on "Once and Again," an estranged daughter in "The Wrestler," evil Veda in "Mildred Pierce" — under her belt at only 26. In "Charlie Countryman," she's Gabi, a young Romanian being fought over by an American (Shia LaBeouf) and a Eurotrash gangster (Mads Mikkelsen). But there's more to her than her looks.

"It was important that she was not just a pretty face," Wood explains. "She's a very strong, tough, hard girl with many walls. I think the only reason she lets Shia's character in is because he catches her at a very vulnerable moment. I think when you fall in love with people it's when you're at your most vulnerable. All your guards are down."

The director, Fredrik Bond, is very image-driven — what is it like being a serious actor working for such a visual filmmaker, as Wood also did with Julie Taymor on "Across the Universe"? "It can be very scary for an actor. They're telling you to do all these things and you're not sure what it is because you can't see the big picture," she says. "But then you see the finished product and you finally get it. You just have to trust them. You have to be able to let go and be at their mercy completely."

Like many other acclaimed actors, Wood has periodically found her way to the small screen. "A lot of people are flocking to TV now because a lot of things are actually getting made. It's so hard to get a movie made now. And there's such great things happening on TV because there's actually money to make them. And they're ballsy," she says. "I do miss TV sometimes. I do miss getting to know a character so well that you can just walk on set and immediately just start channeling them."

She even got her start on television, doing cheesy TV movies as a child. "When I was 12 they were the greatest things in the world. I did one with Meredith Baxter. I got to be kidnapped. I was excited to be doing something where I did my own stunts."

MATT PRIGGE
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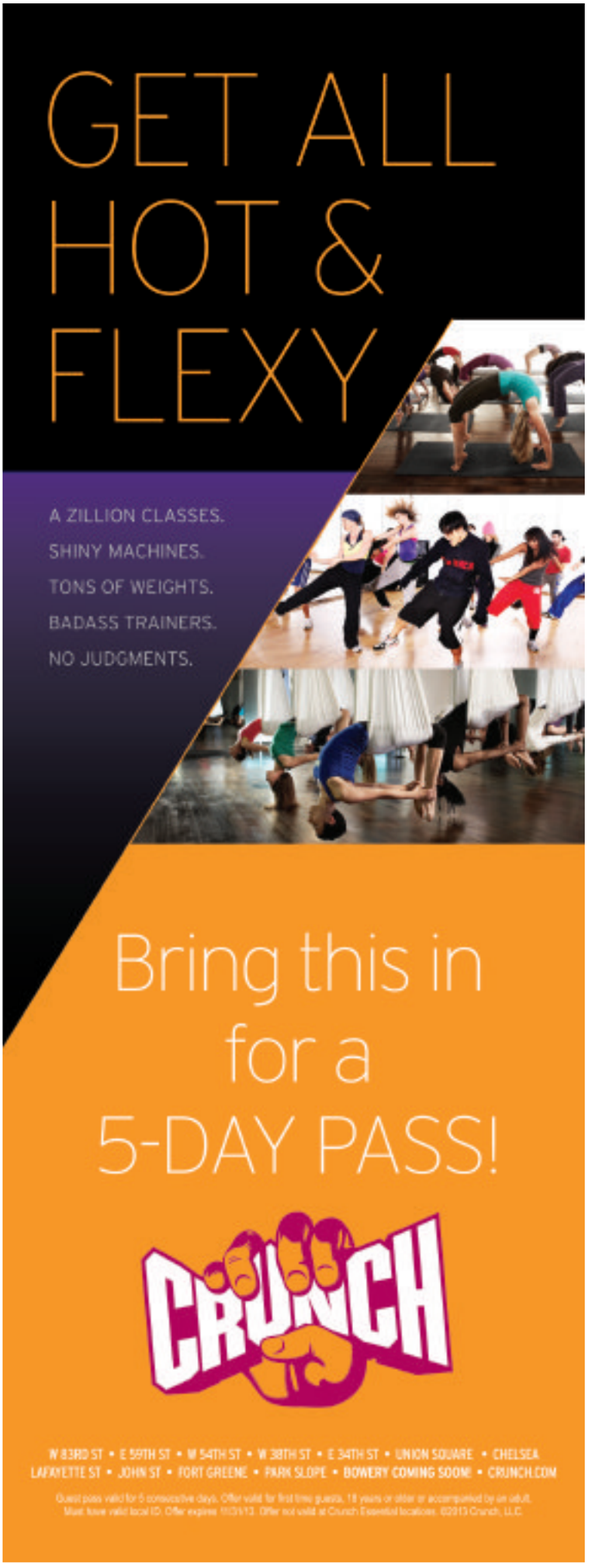
On Shia

Controversial co-star

The film also gave her the chance to work with LaBeouf, another actor making the transition to adult roles. Wood, unlike him, has always done adult movies, usually playing a precocious teen. "I think he might have a harder time because started on the Disney Channel," she says. "People want to give him a hard time for that — even though he's so freaking good."

Wood has nothing but superlative words for her sometimes controversial co-star. "There's nothing diva-ish about him," she says. "He's very humble. He demands a lot because he cares so much."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CHRIS PRATT

The "Delivery Man" co-star gets his comedy from "a place of hopelessness."

MISERY CAN BE A GOLD MINE

Chris Pratt has become something of an incredible growing-and-shrinking machine lately, getting superbuff for "Zero Dark Thirty" and then impressively out-of-shape for his latest, "Delivery Man," in which he co-stars as Vince Vaughn's pessimistic friend and hapless attorney. And after that, he got into superhero form for next year's Marvel spectacle "Guardians of the Galaxy." But Pratt is OK with the misery, as long as it keeps audiences laughing.

You had all the best lines in the movie.
Vince's character comes from such a hopeful place, but I think maybe the best comedy comes from a place of hopelessness, and that's where my character is at. He's just a sad, miserable type of guy, and that's where you mine the best comedy. I think to me, that's the ultimate accomplishment in acting — to be in a place of such utter pain but people find it hilarious. But hopefully not all of my pain is funny. Like, the only pain that's funny is the pain that doesn't really hurt. If a brick falls on someone's head and then their brains fall out and they die, you're not going to laugh.

All four of his kids looked about the same age.
Yeah, we were busy. There was a whole backstory I came up with, where [he and his wife] met in law school, she got a really great job that brought us to Brooklyn and had one kid. I was like, "I'm a progressive man, I can handle being a stay-at-home dad." And then next thing you know, four years later we have four kids, the passion's gone, I've gained weight and she's sleeping with one of her partners.

It's the classic story, but the genders are reversed. It's like what so many men since the '50s have been doing to these poor mothers: getting them pregnant, saddling them with the responsibility of child-rearing and then going off and sleeping with someone better-looking and younger. Then they're stuck. They can't disappear, they've got these f—ing kids to feed.

How often do you put that much work into a character's backstory?
For this movie, I felt like the backstory was really important. I wanted to focus on backstory and I wanted to do this physical transformation to get into it. It was something totally different for me.

Keeping promises

You've been doing a lot of physical transformations lately.
That's right. I am my own superhero — I can gain and lose weight. [Laughs] I worked really hard for a long time, ate the right things. I said I would do it and I did it. Something makes you feel really good about that.

NBC/NBCU PHOTO BANK

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Get to know your superheroes

Last week, Netflix announced that it will be developing four new series based on iconic yet lesser-known characters from Marvel's repertoire of superheroes. Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Iron Fist and Luke Cage series will begin streaming on the site in 2015. The four also will be featured in a Netflix-exclusive miniseries called "The Defenders," which is about a team of unlikely heroes who are willing to sacrifice themselves for the greater good. Here's what you need to know about these four superheroes:

Daredevil

Why him?

The New York City lawyer lost his sight when a radioactive substance fell on him. Now, he goes around fighting crime utilizing his supernatural radar abilities, proving justice is truly blind.

Best part of the comic

When Frank Miller took his turn at penning the crusades of the blind hero, he contributed most of the iconic parts of the series. We learned that Daredevil was trained by a ninja clan, but it didn't bode well for him that he fell in love with a ninja assassin who was trained by a rival ninja clan. "Cabin in the Woods" co-writer Drew Goddard is now behind the series. Also, let's pretend that the dreaded 2003 Ben Affleck version of this superhero's story never happened.

Luke Cage

Why him?

Due to illegal prison experiments that were done to Luke Cage when he was wrongly convicted, he's got superhuman strength, unbeatable stamina and skin so thick that it's nearly impossible to hurt him. This black superhero was rumored to get his own film, but it seems like Marvel will be testing out his popularity through the Netflix model.

Best part of the comic

Cage is an entrepreneur and is known for starting the "Heroes for Hire" business, where you can pay a fee to have a superhero solve your problems. He knows how to be a team player and has worked with Iron Fist, Daredevil and Jessica Jones (more on them later). He was also a member of the New Avengers and led the Heroic Age Thunderbolts.

Jessica Jones

Why her?

A freak accident with radioactive chemicals killed her family while she was in high school, but also left her with limited flight, invulnerability powers and super strength.

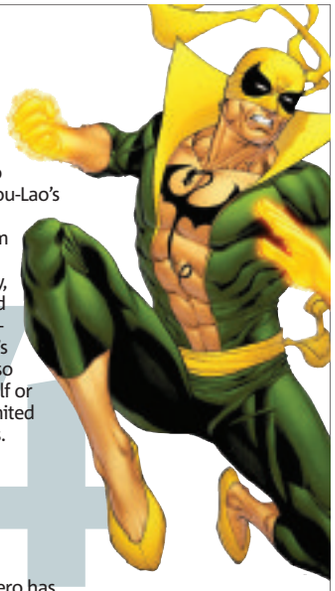
Best part of the comic

She's gone by several names including Jewel, Knightress and Power Woman, but she's best when she's working as an investigative journalist or detective. Oh yeah, she's also Luke Cage's leading lady. Melissa Rosenberg, who wrote the "Twilight" films, is writing this one.

Iron Fist

Why him?

Through his martial arts studies, he was able to obtain dragon Shou-Lao's superhuman energy. This gave him strength, speed, stamina, durability, agility reflexes and senses — plus ninja sensibilities. He's mastered his chi, so he can heal himself or others and has limited telepathic abilities.



Best part of the comic

The martial arts hero has been able to defeat many opponents, including Sabretooth, Master Khan, the Steel Serpent and death itself. Part of his motivation comes from the fact that his parents gave up their lives to save his as they searched for the city of K'un L'un, which is inhabited by aliens from another dimension.

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TV watch list

Maybe the Axeman is good in bed? / MICHELE K. SHORT, FX

SUSPENSE

'American Horror Story: Coven'

This show just keeps getting better. And by better, we mean more messed up. Last week's episode hinted that tonight Fiona gets, er, involved with the Axeman. Nothing says hot romance like a cold blade. **10 P.M., FX**

MOVIE

'Up'

Cancel your plans. ABC Family is playing two of our all-time favorite animated "kids" movies, that are actually just as enjoyable (maybe more so) for adults. The back-to-back Pixar marathon starts with "Up," which never fails to make us cry and, it must be said, might be Pixar's greatest accomplishment (sorry, "Toy Story"). Don't leave the couch when the credits start rolling, because "WALL-E" is up next. "WALL-E" is freaking adorable! **7 P.M., ABCFAM**

REALITY

'Top Chef'

Tonight's challenge is all about pig, when the remaining contestants are challenged to cook a 300-pound hog into a dish for blues musician Dr. John. Holy crap, that's a lot of bacon. Mmmm, bacon. **10 P.M., BRAVO**

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One night. 'Here Lies Love' benefit concert

Did you miss out on the highly acclaimed, largely sold-out run of "Here Lies Love" at The Public Theater earlier this year?

Then you'll be thrilled to hear that the rock musical, by David Byrnes and Fatboy Slim, will be staged again on Nov. 25. And the best part is that your ticket goes toward a great cause: "Here Lies Love" will play for one night only as a charity concert to benefit Typhoon Haiyan victims.

Discover the beautiful story of Imelda Marcos, former first lady of the Philippines, who adored opulence but came to truly love the resiliency of her land and people — only to be exiled from them. The entire album will be sung through, with music that will literally have you dancing along (wear comfortable shoes). Several original cast members — many of whom are Filipino — will be returning to reprise their roles.

You can secure general admission standing-room tickets for $50 if you act fast. (Nov. 25, 7 p.m., Terminal 5, 610 W. 56th St., www.ticketmaster.com)

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

"Here Lies Love" aptly features the strength of Filipinos. / JOAN MARCUS

'Sunshine' could use a little more shade

Theater. The 2006 dark comedy film gets a staged, musical remake.

The family gathers for dinner, just before the tables are turned. / JOAN MARCUS

Why do producers keep making bad musicals out of good movies? They must think they have the next "Once," when in fact their show is more likely to post a closing notice before you can say "Nine to Five."

"Little Miss Sunshine," at Second Stage, is not a bad musical — but it pales next to its source material, largely because its music is at odds with its book. It begins with a potent opening number bemoaning (or extolling) life's disappointments, a recurring theme. But while the book more or less keeps to its hard-boiled roots, the songs go soft.

"Sunshine" centers on Olive (Hannah Nordberg), a fourth-grader who wants to be the first Miss America from New Mexico. Olive placed second at the regional Little Miss Sunshine Pageant. She's surrounded by a family of losers, including gay Uncle Frank (Rory O'Malley), who slit his wrists after his lover jilted him, Grandpa (David Rasche), who was booted out of a senior residence and perennially unemployed Dad (Will Swenson). Mom (Stephanie J. Block), the most normal but the most disappointed with life, and purposefully nonspeaking brother Dwayne (Logan Rowland) complete the picture.

A call comes that the winner of the Little Miss Sunshine regionals has been disqualified, so Olive can compete in the pageant finals in California that weekend. The entire family goes with her. It's a road trip from hell, littered with obstacles, but they forge ahead.

Songs tend to be backstory or windows into the souls of the play's characters. We get to know them better, but at a price. The music gets a little mushy — not entirely muting the play's bark, but definitely diminishing its bite.

If you go

'Little Miss Sunshine'

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The latest news from the NYC Department of Education

Public School Press

NOVEMBER 2013

THE POWER OF CHOICE

Students Choose Among Hundreds of High Schools

OBAMA HAILS P-TECH, ONE OF HUNDREDS OF NEW SMALL SCHOOLS

As the high school application season reaches its peak, tens of thousands of city eighth graders have been flocking to borough-wide fairs and taking school tours to decide which schools to apply for.

And with over 400 high schools specializing in everything from astronomy to zoology, there's no shortage of variety. The choice system has revolutionized high school education in this city—and won the acclaim of the President of the United States.

In October, President Obama electrified a crowd of students and faculty at Brooklyn's Pathways in Technology Early College High School, or P-Tech, calling it "proof of what can be accomplished" in American education.

A decade ago, zip code and income often determined where a high school student went to school. But in 2004, a new application process gave students access to schools citywide. And hundreds of new schools geared toward different professions started to bloom.

More than 330 small, new high schools have opened since 2002. Whether it's Career and Technical Education schools or themed schools, students are encouraged to choose a program tailored to their interests.

President Barack Obama chats with students during a visit to a classroom at Pathways in Technology Early College High School.

APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 2ND

Nusrat Jahan, an eighth grader in Brooklyn who wants to be a doctor, was surprised at the size of the high school directory. With the help of her guidance counselor, she narrowed down her list and selected Midwood as her top choice, a school with an excellent program for the medical sciences. "This is really about my future," she said.

Reports by national research firms MDRC and the National Bureau of Economic Research have shown that new high schools have made a major impact on student achievement. The city's graduation rate climbed to an all-time high of more than sixty-five percent in 2011 and since 2005 the dropout rate has been nearly sliced in half.

"It's not our job to tell students where to go or what to be," says schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott. "We're here to tell them: here are your options. You decide."

NYC Department of Education

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

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Public School Press

Straight Talk from the Chancellor

Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott responds to parents' questions

What kinds of high schools are available for my child?

Just about any kind you can imagine. Over the last 12 years, we've opened 336 new, small high schools so that your child can study virtually anything, from medicine to film production to marine biology to architecture. More than a third of all city schools have opened in the last decade.

How does the high school admissions process work? Can all students apply to any school?

All eighth and first-time ninth grade students can apply to any high school in the city by the deadline of December 2, 2013. Then they are matched to schools according to their interests and each school's criteria. Students rank up to 12 schools, and a special math formula, designed by a Nobel Prize-winning economist, matches their choices with schools' admissions requirements.

Before the admissions process expanded in 2004, most students were assigned to their local, zoned school. If a local school didn't offer the kinds of classes students were interested in, they were simply out of luck.

The new program has been a tremendous success. For eight straight years, more than 80 percent of students have been matched to one of their top five choices. Nearly half of students are admitted to their number one choice.

Why is school choice important for my child?

Education isn't one-size-fits-all. We've created schools that are as diverse as the students they serve.

Giving your child options means giving her an opportunity to explore and learn. She can study what she loves, learn in an environment that meets her individual needs, and figure out what makes her tick—even discover things she didn't even know she liked.

The high school admissions process gives all students—regardless of where they live—an equal opportunity to attend the best school for them.

"Education isn't one-size-fits-all. We've created schools that are as diverse as the students they serve."

Choosing from hundreds of schools is overwhelming. How can my eighth grader possibly pick from such a huge selection?

We've created resources to help guide parents and students. Printed and online directories are available, and guidance counselors are on hand to answer any questions. School fairs are held in each borough so you and your child can talk with teachers and students representing high schools you're interested in. (For more on the online directory search nyc.gov for High School Directory.)

And many new resources are in the works, like the 'success centers' being piloted at a few city middle schools. There is a terrific drop-in success center in Ridgewood where eighth graders get support from counselors in navigating the choice process, and also can be counseled by their peers. A couple more of these programs will open in Manhattan next year.

Ultimately, if your child is not satisfied with her high school match, there's a second chance to apply in 'Round 2' of the admissions process in the spring. All eighth grade and first-time ninth grade students can participate in Round 2 if, for whatever reason, they're not happy.

Are all these new high schools really helping students? How?

Our small high schools have helped lead the city to soaring graduation rates—a 39 percent increase—and a dropout rate that's been nearly sliced in half. Those are telling numbers. The small schools we've opened have graduation rates that are 10 points higher on average than the rest of the city, and have helped an extra 57,000 kids graduate—more students than the entire Boston school system.

But don't just take our word for it. Independent studies by nationally recognized research groups MDRC, the Brookings Institution, and Duke University and MIT have confirmed the good news: our small schools strategy is working.

A Nobel for School Choice Expert

The Man Who Revolutionized the Public School Choice Process

Dr. Alvin E. Roth has designed all kinds of algorithms, whether pairing new doctors with their top hospital choices, or matching kidneys to patients in the greatest need. In 2012 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work.

So who better to call in to match 85,000 eighth graders to over 400 different New York City public high schools?

Copyright © Nobel Media AB 2012 Photo: Alexander Mahmoud

Back in 2003, the New York City enrollment system was sending nearly 30 percent of students to high schools they didn't choose. So Roth and his team developed a system to "put as many students as possible into their more preferred choices."

The elaborate formula that Dr. Roth's team developed allowed students to apply to 12 schools instead of 5, and greatly increased the odds that students would gain admittance to a school they wanted to attend.

Now, nearly half of all students are admitted to their first choice, and more than 74 percent of students are matched to one of their top three choices.

Dr. Roth may be a Nobel Prize-winning economist, but inside the city's public schools, it's likely that he'll simply be remembered as the ultimate matchmaker.

T.I.P.s to Make Your Perfect Match

New York City's high school admissions process can take time, but the good news is, it works! Cynthia Caspi, a guidance counselor at The Park Slope Education Complex at M.S. 88 in Brooklyn, offers these three T.I.P.s:

Talk to your child about the types of schools and programs that best suit his or her needs.. Not all schools offer the same array of classes or extracurricular activities, so do your research before you apply.

Identify the schools' admissions priorities and make sure your child is eligible to attend. The more criteria your child meets, the more likely he or she is to get an offer.

Plan to list at least eight—and up to 12—schools in order of preference, and include different types of schools and programs. The more options are listed, the more likely a match will be made.

For help, talk to your child's guidance counselor. For more on the admissions process, consult the DOE's high school directory, available at enrollment offices and online: search NYC.gov for "High School Directory."

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Kindergarten Connect

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Now through January 2014, many NYC schools will be inviting families of 4th-8th grade students who scored a Level 1 or 2 on the 2013 State Common Core exams to a one-on-one conversation about their children's progress. Through this personalized session of up to 30 minutes, they can discuss their son or daughter's performance, strengths, and specific tools and activities to help their child improve.

To request an extended conversation, please contact your child's school.

Contact the Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) at (212) 374-4118 or FACE@schools.nyc.gov or contact the Coalition for Educational Justice at email@nyccej.org with any questions.

NYC Department of Education
Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

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To nominate a teacher visit nyc.gov and search for Big Apple Awards.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, January 17, 2014

NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOVEMBER-DECEMBER CALENDAR:

THURS, NOV. 28-FRI, NOV. 29	THURS, DEC. 12	MON, DEC. 23-WED, JAN. 1
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PLUS

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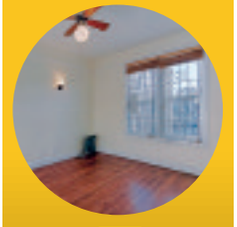
The most expensive property to hit the market this week is the penthouse at 212 W. 18th St. Marketed by Douglas Elliman, this five-bedroom, five-plus-bath offers wraparound views, a private terrace, marble bathrooms and a master bath with a cast iron tub.



Cheapest

$169K

The least expensive property this week is a co-op at 128 W. 138th St. Marketed by Corcoran, this renovated one-bedroom features hardwood floors, high ceilings, southern exposure and plenty of storage. The unit is in an elevator building with a live-in super.

StreetEasy.com is a New York-based real estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.

STREETEASY

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It's really the little things that make a difference. You might not have a separate guest bathroom, but replacing generic hand soap with something a bit more festive shows you made an effort — and, done right, that you have good taste. We love Orla Kiely's iconic patterns, which for a limited time can be found on **Method**'s affordable and eco-friendly soaps. **$3.49 each, MethodHome.com**

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Celebrities

GETTY IMAGES

Ricky Martin lists 40 Bond St. condo for $8.3M

Singer Ricky Martin is listing his condo at 40 Bond St., developed by Ian Schrager, for $8.3 million. Martin purchased the 2,600-square-foot, three-bedroom unit for $5.7 million in 2007.

The sale comes after the recent purchase of another home by Martin, who has twin sons through a surrogate mother, located at 170 East End Ave. Martin paid $5.9 million for that 3,150-square-foot, four-bedroom apartment with four and a half baths.

Dennis Mangone and Pablo Alfaro of Douglas Elliman represented Martin in both transactions, according to the Wall Street Journal.

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ROBE ADVERTISING

Residential. A look at the recovering, but still meager, pipeline of new rentals for lease.

Where are the rentals?

It's not you, it's the lack of available and affordable rentals. / GETTY IMAGES, ISTOCKPHOTO

After the 2008 financial crisis, rattled New Yorkers pulled back on home-buying and started writing rent checks in force, while developers leased out condo units rather than selling them. Five years later, the rental market in the city is going strong, but for a different set of reasons.

The pipeline of new rental units has massively shrunk in the past few years, part of the inventory shortage set in motion when new development across the city stalled during the recession.

Since the late 1960s, Manhattan has seen an average of roughly 12,000 new development rental units each year, said Jesse Keenan, the research director at Columbia University's Center for Urban Real Estate. But according to data from the brokerage Citi Habitats, only 15,723 new development rentals units came on the market from 2008 to 2012.

The pipeline of new rentals is now beginning to recover from the recession. There are some 23,000 new development rental units slated to come on the market in Manhattan by the end of 2017, according to Citi Habitats. While that's an improvement from the recession years, it's still "pretty low in terms of historical trends," Keenan said.

Here's what's currently in the pipeline.

Supersized rentals

Many of the new rental developments will have many more units than the projects on the market now.

According to TRD's research, the 351-unit 101 Bedford in Williamsburg has the most units of any rental project to launch in the past year. By contrast, the Domino Sugar redevelopment, which is expected to break ground next year, is slated to have a stunning 2,284 rentals (although 660 of them will

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With 351-units, 101 Bedford has the most units of any rental to launch in the past year. / STREETEASY

Prices at the Williamsburg Social start at $2,600 for a 436-square-foot studio. / PROVIDED

be set aside as affordable).

But there's more to it than size. Nancy Packes, founder of the eponymous marketing firm, said land costs these days are so high that the only way for developers to turn a profit is by outfitting their projects with condo-like amenities in order to charge high prices, and then packing in units.

"The frontier of competition has moved to massive amenities that need to be amortized over many units," Packes said. New-construction rentals in Manhattan must now charge between $70 and $80 per square foot in order to turn a profit, sources said. That's up from around $60 a square foot during the last real estate boom in the mid-2000s. And Brooklyn projects now charge between $55 and $65 per square foot.

Rental price

$7,000

Monthly rents at 50 North Fifth Street in Williamsburg start at $2,600 for a studio and climb to $7,000 for a two-bedroom penthouse.

To make a Manhattan rental work, "you would have to build in a location now that will yield an $80-per-square-foot rent," said developer Ben Shaoul of Magnum Real Estate Group. Shaoul just finished the lease-up of Williamsburg Social, a 72-unit project at 250 Bedford Ave., where prices started at $2,600 for a 436-square-foot studio. The building has over 7,500 square feet of amenity space, including a landscaped courtyard, roof deck with wireless internet access, residents' lounge and bike storage.

Fifty North Fifth Street in Williamsburg, which began leasing in September, has more than 15,000 square feet of amenity space, including two lounges, an indoor basketball court and a bocce court. Monthly rents at the building start at $2,600 for a studio and climb to $7,000 for a two-bedroom penthouse, according to Maundrell.

Because developers are squeezing in as many units as they can, the units themselves are often smaller, with "narrower room dimensions," Packes noted. In Manhattan, for example, "the one-bedroom used to be a creature of 650 square feet to 850 square feet," Packes said. "That unit now is being built at 650 square feet."

Many of the city's supersized rental projects are in Brooklyn, where large parcels of land are more abundant than in Manhattan. So far, at least, high rents and waiting lists don't seem to be deterring tenants. At 50 North Fifth St., for example, 30 of the project's 229 units were leased in the first week and a half of marketing, Maundrell said.

Renters have "an appetite for luxurious rentals, condo-like amenities, and condo-like finishes," said Andrew Barrocas, CEO of residential brokerage MNS. "You'll see people paying for it." **HAYLEY KAPLAN**

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL

They're back

Condos over rentals

Immediately after the financial crisis, lenders were more willing to finance rentals than condos. But they've recently started warming up to condos again as market conditions have improved — new-construction condos now sell for upward of $2,200 per square foot, compared to $1,800 in 2006, according to Packes. That's helped spur the construction of more for-sale residential units.

Some major developers are now turning their attention to condos.

"There's a point where it no longer becomes feasible for a developer to do rentals," said Neil Helman, an investment sales broker at Avison Young. "Rents top out at a certain number, unlike condominium pricing, which just continues to escalate."

Lack of inventory

The waiting game

In the last year, 22 large new rental buildings (those with 15 or more units) have hit the market, according to data from real estate database CityRealty and permits filed with the Department of Buildings. That figure — which includes 10 projects in Manhattan and 12 in Brooklyn — is significantly lower than in most years.

"If you really look, there's not that many rental buildings in the city right now," said Andrew Gerringer, the managing director of new business development at the Marketing Directors.

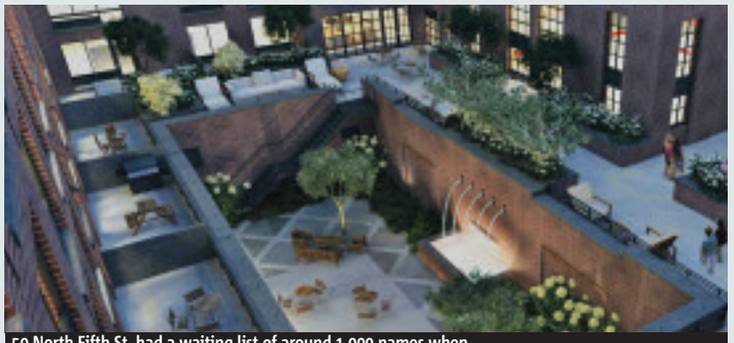
That's contributed to new rental apartments coming on the market now getting snapped up at a never-before-seen pace.

Until recently, leasing teams expected to collect a few hundred names of interested tenants before launching a new rental building, Gerringer said. But at LCOR's 250 North 10th St. in Williamsburg, a 232-unit building where the Marketing Directors is handling leasing, he said he expects the waiting list to grow to nearly 1,000 potential tenants when the building hits the market in a few months.

David Maundrell, founder of the Brooklyn-based brokerage AptsAndLofts.com, said the 229-unit rental 50 North Fifth St. had a waiting list of around 1,000 names when it started leasing in August— something he's never seen in his 11 years at the helm of the firm.

There's not much relief in sight.

TRD identified 36 new rentals planned to hit the market in Manhattan in the next few years, and 30 slated for Brooklyn. That meager pipeline is a result of both rising land costs and shifting trends in construction financing, sources said.



50 North Fifth St. had a waiting list of around 1,000 names when it started leasing in August says Maundrell. / PROVIDED

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NYC rental index

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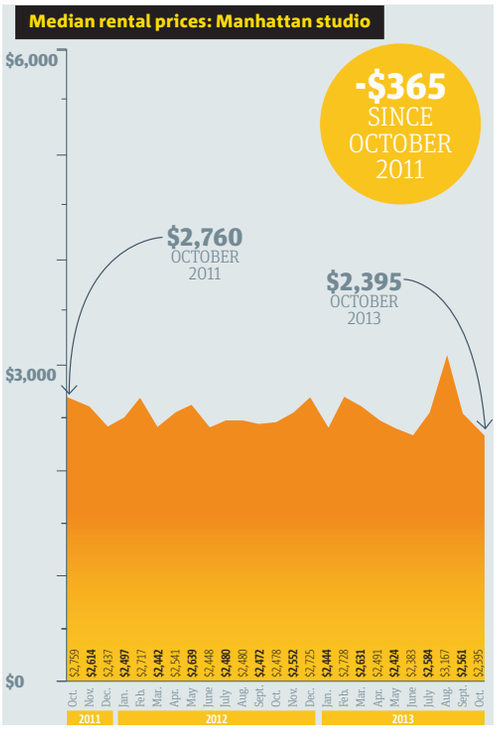

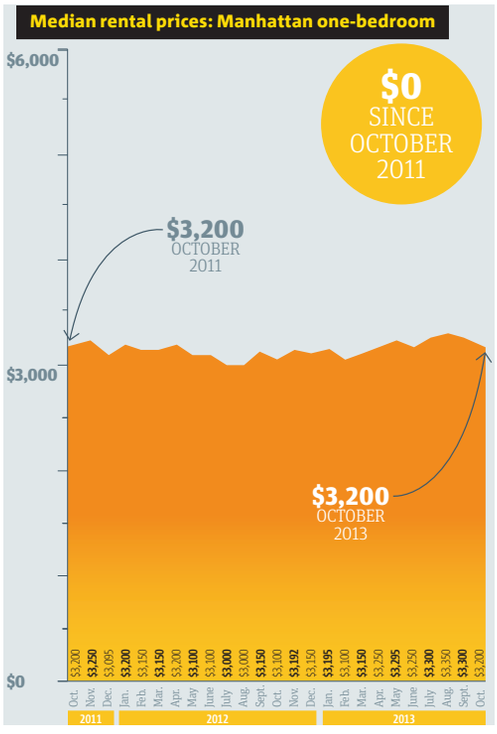

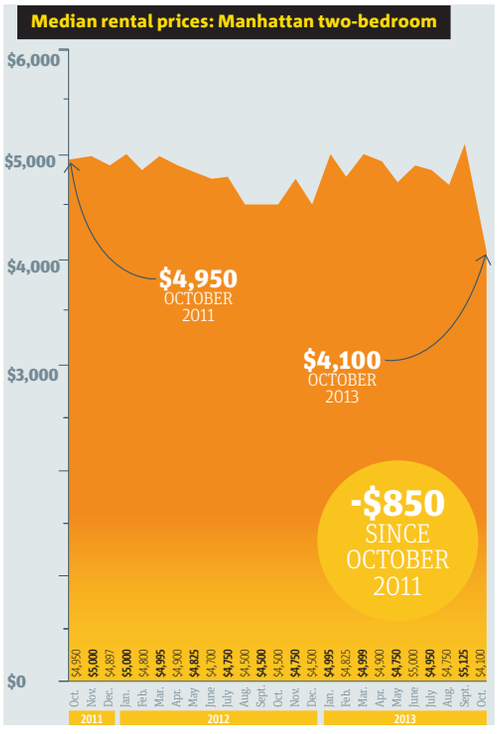

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26	2 Bedroom	$916	2 3 4	$32,233 - $34,400 $32,233 - $38,700 $32,233 - $42,950
2	3 Bedroom	$1,054	4 5 6	$37,200 - $42,950 $37,200 - $46,400 $37,200 - $49,850

# APTS AVAILABLE	APARTMENT TYPE *	MONTHLY RENT **	HOUSEHOLD SIZE *	TOTAL GROSS ANNUAL INCOME RANGE *** MINIMUM-MAXIMUM
1	Studio	$553	1	$20,066 - $24,080
4	1 Bedroom	$595	1 2	$21,500 - $24,080 $21,500 - $27,520
5	2 Bedroom	$723	2 3 4	$25,800 - $27,520 $25,800 - $30,960 $25,800 - $34,360
1	3 Bedroom	$831	4 5 6	$29,767 - $34,360 $29,767 - $37,120 $29,767 - $39,880

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Requests must be postmarked by December 13, 2013.
Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only to a different address that will be listed on the application, & must be postmarked by January 3, 2014. Applications not sent via regular mail will not be accepted. Applications postmarked after January 3, 2014 will be logged in after all other applications.
Applications will be selected by lottery.
Priority will be given to applicants who live or work in New York City & who do not live in 80/20 developments in appropriate-size units.
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Some houses now need to be raised to protect them from future floods. / GETTY IMAGES

Post-Sandy building boom heats up in Jersey

One year later. Construction firms are keeping busy as homeowners elevate properties and rebuild.

In the year since Hurricane Sandy slammed into the East Coast, construction companies have seen their business spike as homeowners tap them to rebuild, particularly on the hard-hit Jersey Shore.

Among the key drivers fueling this business are existing Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements and the soon-to-be-finalized flood zone maps. In particular, homeowners living in communities where houses sustained more than 50 percent damage during Sandy are required to elevate their homes — literally raising them on pilings — or demolish or relocate them.

Even some homeowners whose properties weren't severely damaged are taking steps to protect them against future storms. In Long Beach Island — which is dotted with homes midway through reconstruction — David Construction LBI House Raising has seen a 50-percent increase in business since Sandy hit. "If we could handle all the work, we would have 30 times the amount of business," said Nancy Leonetti, co-owner of the firm.

To get homes into FEMA compliance, Leonetti said, her firm is raising them a minimum of 3 to 4 feet above their existing height. She estimated that a two-story Cape Cod-style house, ranging from 1,400 to 1,800 square feet, can cost $50,000 to $55,000 to elevate. That amount usually needs to be paid up front by the homeowner, who then gets reimbursed by the insurance company.

But there are disparities between communities. While residents of affluent LBI can afford the upfront costs while awaiting reimbursement, homeowners in nearby mainland communities like Beach Haven West and Mystic Island often can't.

Indeed, between June and September, 6,600 New Jersey homeowners applied for funding through the state's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

In addition, many homeowners with flood insurance don't realize that they have Increased Cost of Compliance coverage, which can also pay up to $30,000 toward the cost of home elevation, said Nathan Colmer, a realtor with the Van Dyk Group. He also noted that many homes in Jersey's flood-prone areas are at elevations that are safely above sea level.

"People think that every house has to be raised or they are going to be paying $20,000 a year in flood insurance," Colmer said, "but that is absolutely not the case." **ALEX ULAM**

By the numbers

6,600

Number of New Jersey homeowners who applied for funding through the state's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program between June and September 2013.

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL

Quoted

"People think that every house has to be raised or they are going to be paying $20,000 a year in flood insurance, but that is absolutely not the case." Nathan Colmer, realtor

NEW LUXURY RENTAL LAUNCHES AT THE BEACON IN JERSEY CITY

Leasing is underway for The Paramount, a distinctive 23-story building featuring more than 200 modern rental residences, private amenities and some of the most dramatic spaces and architectural elements found within The Beacon's collection of historically-restored buildings in Jersey City.

Previously utilized as the location for numerous movies due its unique Art Deco spaces, including Titanic, Quiz Show and Annie, The Paramount's majestic lobby features a dramatic double-height space dominated by 12 marble columns and a grand stairwell of white and gray marble that leads to a mezzanine level.

Private amenities include a fitness center with state-of-the-art Cybex equipment, separate yoga room and lounge area. A first-floor Clubroom features multiple lounge areas, a projection screen TV and Wifi, while a 19th floor sunroom/conservatory with outdoor furnished terrace offers stunning views of the Manhattan skyline and Statue of Liberty.

Monthly rents start at $1,700 for the Paramount's new studio, one- and two-bedroom residences -- many of which offer panoramic views of the Manhattan skyline and Liberty State Park. The ultra modern residences feature 14-foot lofted ceilings, oak plank flooring and Gourmet Chef's Kitchens with granite countertops, GE® Energy Star® stainless steel appliances and garbage disposals. Each residence also offers central heating and air conditioning, individual washers and dryers and smart card key access.

Beacon residents also enjoy valet and self garage parking and courtesy shuttle service to the Grove St. and Exchange Place PATH/Ferry Stations. There's also a landscaped community park offering Manhattan skyline views, a private 2-acre park with children's playground and organic garden spaces, and two dog runs.

THE BEACON

For more information on The Beacon, call (877) 640-4945, or visit The Beacon's website at www.thebeaconjc.com. The community's Leasing Center is located at 20 Beacon Way, Jersey City, NJ 07304.

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Don't miss these two events

Frigo's pop-up store

Swedish brand RevolutionWear debuts a 3,500-square-foot pop-up shop to introduce customers to Frigo, its new breakthrough luxury technology in men's underwear (Think: maximum support and ventilation).

At the event — set up like every man's dream playhouse — visitors can sip on complimentary espressos, browse cool books by Rizzoli New York and listen to vinyl by indie record store Other Music. Short films will be projected and an interactive photo booth will be on hand. If all of that doesn't keep you entertained, the lower level houses a vintage game room with old school classics such as Pac-Man. Did we mention this could be the perfect date-night spot for you and your guy?

Wednesday-Nov. 26
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Jen Kao's final sample sale

As you may know, New York-based designer Jen Kao is closing her label due to health reasons. But before shuttering doors the brand is hosting a final sample.

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Houndstooth adds a touch of sophistication. / GUERRE

Looking sharp in houndstooth

Houndstooth is the weave that resembles a geometric block of '80s-esque space invaders. It's the jagged hipster cousin of gingham and this season, the pattern is the ubiquitous check of choice for men and women alike. Here, we find the looks that guys should get their teeth into this autumn.

RICHARD PECKETT
richard.peckett@metro.lu

1

MP di Massimo Piombo
Houndstooth overcoat, $2,115, www.mrporter.com

2

Zara
Houndstooth scarf, $40, www.zara.com

3

Paul Smith
Houndstooth sweater, $750, www.paulsmith.co.uk

4

Marc Jacobs
Camouflage suede hi-tops, $501, www.brownsfashion.com

Black FRIDAY & Cyber Monday Gift Guide

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HOW TO BE GOOD — OR BE VERY, VERY EVIL

App Appeal
MATT PRIGGE
MATT.PRIGGE@METRO.US

Instead

Price: Free
There are selfish do-gooders who surrender their lives for the betterment of others. Then there are the incredibly lazy and selfish. That's most of us. We'd like to give money to cancer research, to Parkinson's research, to the starving at home and abroad. But we're too busy. We want charities to take our money, but on the condition that we literally only have to lift a finger.

There are many apps that turn us into giving monsters, but two stand above most, in large part because they're self-serving in addition to making us selfless.

An app called Instead, from Oven Bits, LLC, placates our need to be both charitable and thrifty. Rather than eat out, it asks you to eat in and donate the money saved (about $5 a day) to a charity for, say, HIV medicine. Pack a lunch three times a week, and the cash not spent goes to provide others with clean water.

Plague the world with bad singing with Karaoke Anywhere. / PROVIDED

Charity Miles

Price: Free
Charity Miles is even more hands-on. It calculates how much exercise you're getting, whether you're walking, running or cycling. For every mile you rack up, a set amount of cash is fired off to a charity of your choice: the Special Olympics, Stand Up to Cancer, The World Food Programme, etc. The energy spent will be entirely for your own purposes, even as it goes to those in need.

Karaoke Anywhere

Price: Free or $1.99
Karaoke Anywhere is not a force for good. It is a force for evil.

Until now, the act of singing — badly or scarily well — along to popular (or not so popular) songs has been regulated to bars where the staff has resigned themselves to hearing people do "Achy Breaky Heart" ad nauseam.

When karaoke expanded to the home, with games like "Rock Band" and others, that was fine because it was contained.

But Karaoke Anywhere puts it on your phone, meaning it won't be long before drunk Millennials in the park are shouting their way through Cee Lo's "F— You." However, if any of you try Plastic Bertrand's "Ca Plane Pour Moi," which is also available on this app, we will definitely be impressed.

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Smartphone necessities. Lissie

On tour to promote her latest album, "Back to Forever," Lissie hits New York on Monday (Nov. 25) for a show at Webster Hall (125 East 11th St). While traveling between cities every day, the singer relies on the following items on her smartphone:

Sudoku (Optime arts version): I like the challenge. It helps to pass time and I'd like to think it's good for my brain.

Instagram: I get to travel to lots of cool places and spend lots of time away from family and friends while on the road, so it's a good way to share what I'm up to and see what my friends and family are up to as well.

Lissie loves her apps.
ANDREW WHITTON

Twitter: It's a great tool for letting my followers know about shows. ... I can thank those who come to the gigs and the encouraging feedback keeps me going!

MyFitnessPal: On the road I don't eat very well and drink too much and get a bit of a gut! ... We are sitting for long periods of time. ... And this app helps me be mindful of what I'm eating and lets me set exercise goals.

United irlines app: I'm a big nerd about my mileage. I stay loyal to United and had flown 100,000 miles by September of this year. Since that gives me status, I'm always fiddling with my app to make sure I'm eligible for upgrades, to get a good seat, etc., so that those overseas flights are as comfy as possible. It gives me updates about my flight status as well. METRO

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MARIA MENOUNOS

Relax! You can indulge on turkey day. Here's how to do so wisely.

HEALTHY THANKSGIVING TIPS SHE SWEARS BY

JON SIMON/FEATURE PHOTO SERVICE FOR OCEAN SPRAY

Holiday season is here and for many people, that means an overload of festive food with a side order of guilt. But maybe we should stop beating ourselves up over a few days, and instead focus on our general food habits.

That's what 35-year-old actress, journalist and beauty icon Maria Menounos did when she was 40 pounds heavier than she is today. We love that she's lost the weight and kept it off, but we also are big fans of her no-guilt attitude for enjoying the holidays. Earlier this month, Ocean Spray set up a giant cranberry bog in Rockefeller Center, and we chatted up Menounos there to learn how we can adopt her no-shame ways this holiday season.

How do you resist unhealthy foods during the holidays?
I don't resist temptation, and I think that that's the key. Because I don't resist, I don't crave as much. [Recently] I was in the airport and I wanted M&M's so I had M&M's. I didn't eat the whole bag, because once I ate a few I was like, "Huh, I don't need them anymore." But if I were denying myself, then I would want it. I remember from my days when I was heavier people making me feel bad about my weight. Almost to defy them, I would get a gallon of ice cream and hide in the garage and eat the whole thing. So I understand how my mind works, and so when I don't deprive myself, I don't crave it. And when I do [crave something], I have it.

So you can actually go all out during the holiday?
Absolutely. And then I always say, after the meal take everyone for a walk around the neighborhood. Get a little exercise in.

You were once 40 pounds heavier — and you said you weren't sorry about it and rocked it. Why did you change your lifestyle?
My dad was diabetic so I was putting myself at risk for diabetes, and at some point I had to look myself in the mirror and say, "You know what? It's one thing to be a little heavier and it's another to have eating contests with boys." ... I was getting annoyed with having to work harder to find clothes that looked good. So maybe there was a little of that as well, but it really first and foremost was health.

Are you still tempted to eat like you used to?
For sure. And those are times when you just do it. The other night I wanted potato skins so my boyfriend got potato skins and a soup and a salad. I never even got to the soup and the salad — I ate all of the potato skins myself.

MAJA LUNDAGER
letters@metro.us

Q&A

So how do you keep from gaining weight if you're indulging over the holidays?
That's a big concern for everybody. I always tell people that are concerned about that to cut back three to four weeks before the holiday just 10 percent of the bad things each week. Just make tiny changes leading up to the holiday so that when you have the holiday you enjoy yourself like I want you to. It's a balance. You have been good for four weeks, so you can have a little here.

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This week in health news

A cup of tea may help weight loss

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: Data
Results: A cup of tea might be a valuable health and weight loss aid, according to new research published in the December 2013 American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Researchers found that regular tea drinkers have lower BMIs, smaller waist-to-hip ratios and less body fat compared to non-tea drinkers. In addition, green, black and oolong tea's polyphenols and bioactive flavonoids may help prevent heart disease, certain types of cancer and type 2 diabetes. Tea was also found to improve bone health and activate areas of the brain that improves attention, problem solving and mood.
Significance: This new study of peer-reviewed papers adds further evidence to previously published study results showing that tea might work to improve health, both physically and psychologically.

One less thing to feel guilty about eating this holiday season

Location of study: U.S., U.K. and Germany
Study subjects: Data study
Results: Cranberries provide unique bioactive compounds that may reduce the incidence of urinary tract infections, improve heart health and reduce inflammation, according to a study published in Advances of Nutrition. Researchers from Tufts University, Penn State, Norwich Medical School and Heinrich-Heine-University found that cranberries may also help protect against UTI recurrence, improve blood cholesterol levels, reduce blood pressure and improve inflammation and oxidative stress on the heart.
Significance: This is just the latest good news for cranberry lovers: "Hundreds of studies show that the bioactive compounds found in cranberries improve health," says lead author Jeffrey Blumberg, Ph.D, FASN, FACN, CNS of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.

Pour a mug for your health. / TONGRO IMAGES

Cocaine may stay in your body longer than originally thought

Location of study: U.S.
Study subjects: Lab study
Results: A team led by Anthony P. DeCaprio, Ph.D., of Florida International University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry found new evidence that cocaine damages proteins in the body and that these damaged proteins could remain in users' biofluids for weeks or months after the drug is first taken. The research will appear in the journal Chemical Research in Toxicology.
Significance: Currently, cocaine is only detectable for up to several days. Beyond detection, further study of cocaine may give a more comprehensive picture of the drug's toxic effects and damage to the body.
LINDA CLARKE

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Mark Melrose, DO, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. E-mail him your questions at askdrmark@metro.us.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN?

Is it OK to exercise when I'm sick?

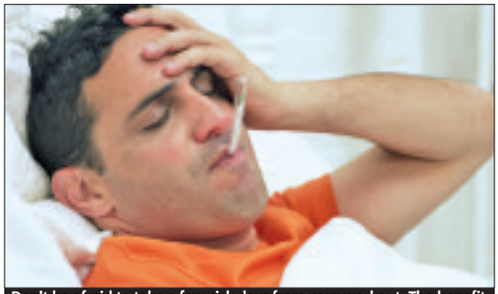
The human body is a miracle of integrated structure and function. One of the more practical means of connecting function and feasibility is the idea that if something hurts, don't do it. For example, if you sprain your ankle, the swelling and pain that accompany the injury are your body's way of telling you to rest and allow yourself to heal.

Managing the activities of daily life during an illness is not all that different. Because your body is generally working harder to fight off the infection, any additional stress on your system from exercise may, rather than boost your immune system, impair healing or prolong recovery time from the illness.

Here are some practical examples of how this works:

Strep Throat

This bacterial infection of the soft tissues at the back of the throat generally causes pain, fever, swollen glands and a general feeling of malaise. Any sort of rigorous exercise — including running, weight lifting, spinning or team sports — may increase your overall fatigue, raise the temperature of an already feverish body and cause dehydration, since your ability to take in fluids is compromised.



Don't be afraid to take a few sick days from your workout. The benefit of resting to your general health is likely more useful than any short- or long-term gains from exercising while ill. / DIGITAL VISION

Achoo!

Colds

Do you really want to be "that person" at the gym who is coughing, sneezing and wiping mucus all over the equipment, potentially infecting everyone else?

Sinusitis

This infection is often accompanied by headache, cough from post-nasal drip and difficulty breathing through your nose from congestion. The elevation in heart rate and blood pressure that normally occurs with any type of cardio may make the throbbing in your head worse, and because you can't efficiently breathe through your nose, may make it more challenging to keep from getting winded.

Bronchitis

Whether from a bacterial infection or, more commonly, a virus, the inflammation of your airways that results in a hacking dry cough may only be made worse by the work of breathing during exercise. You may end up with wheezing and chest congestion due to cold outdoor air being raked over your already inflamed bronchial tubes, and a cough that is worse than ever.

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Explaining the Affordable Care Act

The reasons for the insurance drama

In response to the uproar about millions of individuals receiving coverage cancelation letters, last Thursday the Obama administration announced that health insurance companies could extend those policies for one more year. The reason for the letters being sent to approximately 10 million Americans is rooted in the Affordable Care Act's requirement that health insurance policies include coverage for:

1. **Inpatient, outpatient and emergency care**
2. **Prescription drugs**
3. **Prevention and wellness services**
4. **Rehabilitative services and devices that help people with injuries or disabilities**
5. **Laboratory services including blood tests and radiology services**

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the vast majority of health insurance policies already cover these services. However, the ACA also requires the following Essential Benefits:

6. **Maternity and newborn care for a mother and baby before and after the baby is born**
7. **Pediatric services, including oral and vision care for children**
8. **Mental health and substance use disorder services**

HHS data shows that substance abuse services have only been covered by about 66 percent of plans and maternity and newborn care by 38 percent of policies. Plus, according to a study by HealthPocket, comprehensive pediatric services have only been covered in 24 percent of policies.

In order to be compliant with the ACA, insurance companies had a choice: Either amend the existing policies to include these additional services or cancel the policies and suggest that people buy one that includes all the required benefit. Either way, the added cost of maternity, mental health and pediatric care adds approximately 8-11 percent to monthly premium costs.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has had to defend the Affordable Care Act since its debut. / GETTY IMAGES

See more at www.metro.us

What if you don't have children and have no need for pediatric care? What if you are 50, done having children and don't want maternity care? The ACA doesn't allow individuals to pick and choose from the list of Essential Benefits.

So, what should you do? I say ignore the finger-pointing. Instead, spend your time getting familiar with all the services covered by your new ACA-compliant health plan — especially the preventive care and wellness services that you can get without copays and deductibles.

Every week, Archelle Georgiou, MD, strategic adviser at HealthGrades, will explain one facet of the Affordable Care Act.

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Study participants must have scars that are moderate severity or worse, and are raised above the normal skin.

Horoscope

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Discuss sensitive issues. A relationship will benefit if you take a unique approach to domestic duties.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Altering where or how you live may lead to an emotional situation, but once you do, it will prove to be a good choice.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Strategy coupled with insight and a little luck will lead to victory. Put personal relationships first. Pay attention to what your friends respond to most favorably.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Don't ignore the facts. Listen and assure anyone who has concerns that you are willing to compromise.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You will have the upper hand. Wheel and deal until you get what you want. An emotional relationship will be best dealt with passionately.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Everything will be dependent on how you get along with others. Reach for equality, and you will find common ground that will bring you to your goals.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Shop around. Head for a destination that offers information, and spend time with someone.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Work toward getting whatever is expected of you out of the way. You will discover a talent you didn't know you had if you offer to help someone in need.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Expand your interests and explore what life has to offer. Subscribe to something that will help you broaden your perspective. Follow your heart.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Make the changes you desire, but do so discreetly. The less people know, the less interference you will face.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Getting in touch with people you have worked with in the past will bring about new opportunities. Mix business with pleasure.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Share your concerns, but don't try to lay down the law. Compromise and keeping the peace will be your ticket to getting what you want. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		3		9				6
							4	5
2	4			7				1
3			5		9	8	7	4
7	6	8	1		4			2
6				4			5	7
5	7							
8				5		3		

		7			5	8		2
			1		4	6		
4				2		3		
	5	3	4					8
	2						9	
7					6	4	2	
		6		5				4
		8	6		9			
1		5	2			9		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Baldwin deserves an award, not an ambush

Re: 'Baldwin uses hate speech, threatens to quit acting' (Metro, Nov. 18) I am a neighbor, and I am sick and tired of the photographers in our neighborhood who make Mr. Alec Baldwin's life miserable. He is a kind, generous person who does not deserve the negative media attention published. Mr. Baldwin is polite and his philanthropic work is somehow never mentioned. In my opinion he deserves a special honorarium for all his good works.
ELLEN EXTRACT, VIA EMAIL

An answer far afield

Re: Crossword (Metro, Nov. 14) Just a small correction for your puzzle. In the clue for 41 DOWN, "Isle off Sicily," the answer was "Elba" — but the island of Elba is quite far away from Sicily. It is much farther north, off the coast of Tuscany. It is well known for being where Napoleon was exiled. At best, it could be the island off Sardinia.
PIERA RULLI, VIA EMAIL

A beast of a perception problem

The rationale behind employment or insurance based on obesity seems to be that employers (and society) perceive it as a lifestyle choice. Given that it has significant genetic factors, however, it ultimately comes across as a similar move to penalizing those with a family history of cancer. If we really want to penalize for choices that cost money, we should target the consumption of animal products, with overwhelming evidence that this choice leads to increased disease.
CHARLES BOSSE, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

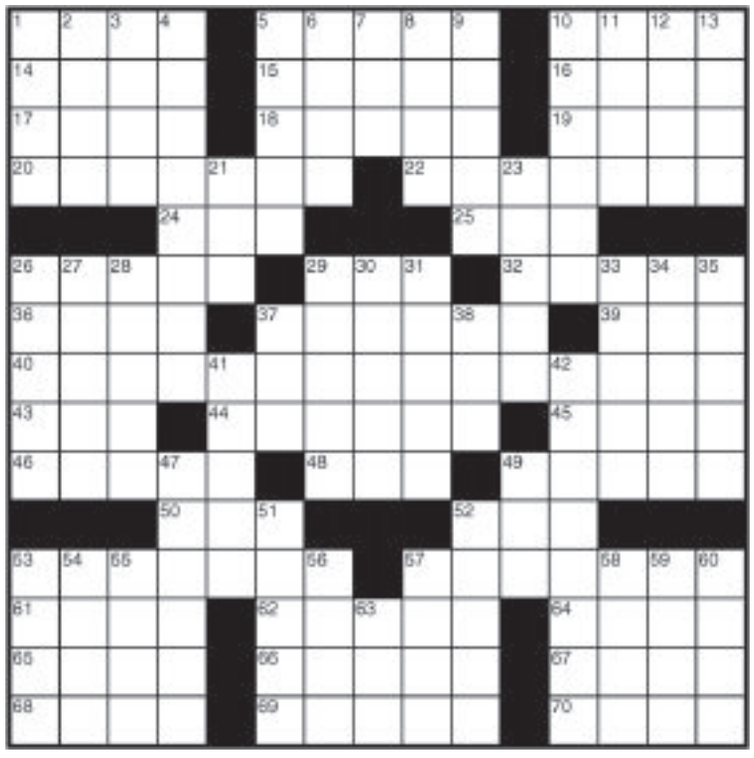
Across

1 Wild guess
5 Glowing embers
10 Mountain route
14 — Major
15 Disturb
16 Caller's code
17 Snug retreat
18 Pie pro
19 Mini-container
20 Well-bred
22 Fix the roof
24 Attorney's deg.
25 Sci-fi Doctor
26 Ladybug food
29 "Nature" channel
32 Stop, to Popeye
36 Every now and —
37 A B-vitamin
39 Caesar's 52
40 Place for seconds (2 wds.)
43 Five-cone caldera of Japan
44 Sachet pieces
45 Ph.D. exam
46 Leans toward
48 California fort
49 — pie
50 Response to a rodent
52 Mr. Chaney of film
53 Contributes (2 wds.)
57 Nightspots
61 Lyricist Lorenz —
62 Seeps out
64 Kansas town
65 "Oops!" (hyph.)
66 Golf or skiing
67 Short slant
68 Hires a crew
69 Wails
70 — Romeo

Down

1 Carried a tune
2 Park feature
3 Club, briefly
4 In a fight
5 To the third power
6 Aussie mineral
7 Set a price
8 Impolite look
9 Scatter about
10 His name may ring a bell
11 Opera tune
12 Standee's lack
13 Markdown
21 Antiquity, once
23 Oater classic
26 Facing the pitcher (2 wds.)
27 Moon position
28 Egret cousin
29 Bean or horse
30 Storybook elephant
31 Bring to a boil
33 On the lookout
34 Red Sea peninsula
35 Championship
37 Never, in Nuremberg
38 Mir successor
41 Basilica parts
42 Peak near ancient Troy (2 wds.)
47 Ocean bottoms
49 Romaine
51 Newsstand
52 Tallies
53 Sidekick
54 Tee-hee cousin (hyph.)
55 Taconite yield
56 Yep canceler
57 Capital near Zurich
58 Stir up
59 Canute's foe
60 Long story
63 Actress — Saldana

Yesterday's answer



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Frontlines to the sidelines

Special teams coach Ben Kotwica, right, talks with punter Ryan Quigley during a game earlier this season. / GETTY IMAGES

NFL. Ben Kotwica served his country before serving as the Jets' special teams coach.

Tony Coaxum remembers a moment in fall 1996 during his freshman year at West Point, he says fully embodies Jets special teams coach Ben Kotwica.

Coaxum, now the secondary coach at Army, was a member of the scout team and as he recalls it, the unit was having a bad day. A senior linebacker and captain, Kotwica ran over to the scout team and stuck his head in their huddle, and simply said, "Hey, let's pick it up," then jogged back over to the defensive side of the ball. The scout team looked at each other and according to Coaxum, responded with one of their best practices of the year.

"He never used to say much. He was a guy you always used to look up to. He commanded respect; you never wanted to disappoint," Coaxum said. "I was on the scout team at the time, and going up against him, you never wanted to disappoint. Even now as a coach, it is still the same way, he still has those same attributes."

Such is the way of Kotwica, a coach who has foregone the fire and bluster of many of his associates and instead shows a quiet and understated leadership forged by his time at West Point and in the Army, where he retired in 2005 with over seven years of military experience.

Being a loud, rah-rah guy has never been Kotwica's style — not now and not when he was captain of the Black Knights. In his senior season, Army went 10-2, with their only losses to a Donovan McNabb-led Syracuse team and Auburn in their bowl game.

Kotwica was the quiet leader of the defense, but his actions spoke as loudly as any fire and brimstone speech in the locker room.

As a senior in high school outside of Chicago, Kotwica wanted to play Division I football while still pursuing a top education. With his father's military background, the opportunity to play under head coach Bob Sutton — now defensive coordinator at the Chiefs — and have a career as an officer after graduation combined to create an appealing package for Kotwica.

He was a systems engineer in the military upon graduating in 1997 and spent a year as a graduate assistant coach at a military prep school. Then came flight school and assignments overseas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in South Korea. He came back stateside in late 2003 and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry division at Fort Hood, Texas.

He saw action during his time of deployment in Iraqi Freedom, part and parcel of 1,000 hours of combat flight time. He was a natural leader, even in stiff combat.

"There were bullets going each way," Kotwica said. "They were shooting at us, we were shooting at them."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

Quoted

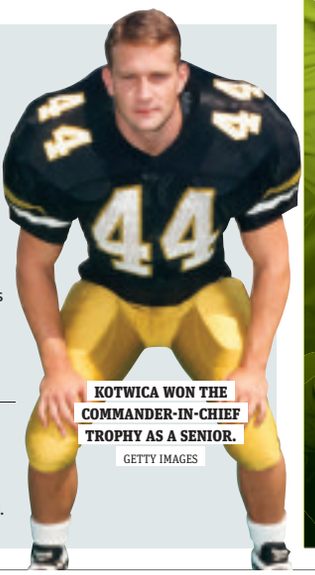
"He likes to keep things light, but he definitely can snap into his military mode pretty quickly if he sees something that he doesn't like."

Nick Bellore, Jets linebacker
On Ben Kotwica, his special teams coach

Coach Kotwica

Kotwica returned to West Point for two years, then left the military and joined the Jets in 2007 as a an assistant.

- The past two seasons, he's been a quality control coach on defense and special teams before becoming special teams coordinator this year, replacing the retired Mike Westhoff.
- "He's light at the right times and stern at the right times, when you need to kick it into gear," Nick Bellore said.



KOTWICA WON THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TROPHY AS A SENIOR. GETTY IMAGES

3 SPORTS

No Cano for Yanks?

Yankees will not pay Cano $300M

Yankees president Randy Levine told ESPN New York on Tuesday the team would love to have All-Star Robinson Cano back — but not for the $300 million his representatives have publicly discussed. "Until he gets a little more realistic, we have nothing to talk about," Levine said.

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NBA power rankings | by James Toscano

No. 1

Pacers (9-1)

A double-digit loss to the Bulls last weekend wasn't pretty, but it's really the only blemish through 10 games for Indiana. They weren't going to stay undefeated forever, and getting beaten in a regional rivalry is far from a bad loss. There's no reason why they can't take their next three games as well. They play at the Knicks, at the Celtics and host the possibly tanking 76ers.

No. 2

Spurs (9-1)

Their only loss so far is to the Portland Trail Blazers. Once again, the Spurs will be a top contender in the NBA.

No. 3

Thunder (7-3)

The Thunder's loss to the Warriors at the buzzer last week might be the game of the year to this point. They probably would've preferred to win though.

No. 4

Heat (7-3)

Miami has three straight victories since their surprising buzzer-beater loss to Boston. And LeBron James scored over 30 points in all three.

No. 5

Clippers (7-4)

Before Monday's loss, Los Angeles had won four straight over the Rockets, T-Wolves, Thunder and Nets.

No. 6

Warriors (8-3)

Klay Thompson is shooting over 50 percent from 3-point range. He's also taking an average of 6.8 three's per game. He can shoot.

No. 7

Blazers (9-2)

Your surprise team of the season so far. The Blazers have ripped off seven wins in a row, but face Chicago and Golden State this week.

No. 8

Rockets (7-4)

We have our first trade demand of the season, and it's from Houston's Omer Asik. Will it be a distraction?

No. 9

Bulls (6-3)

Derrick Rose is averaging 15 points and 4.5 assists per game so far. We're hoping he's still not 100 percent yet. Those numbers will only improve.

No. 10

T-Wolves (7-4)

The T-Wolves have five games from Tuesday to Monday, including facing the Clippers, Nets, Rockets and Pacers. It about to get real.

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Nets hold meeting amidst ugly stretch

NBA. Kevin Garnett was in a talkative mood one day after skipping out on the media post loss.

Upcoming schedule

- at Bobcats, tonight, 7
- at Timberwolves, Nov. 22, 8 p.m.
- vs. Pistons, Nov. 24, 2 p.m.
- at Raptors, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.
- vs. Lakers, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.
- at Rockets, Nov. 29, 8 p.m.

After Monday's second-half collapse on both ends, very few Nets commented about the game or state of the team.

Less than 24 hours after falling to 3-7 and viewing the game tape at a practice that lasted for over two hours, Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce confirmed a team meeting did occur.

"I think the talk was just basketball," Garnett said. "Obviously a part of it, a lot of it, could have been frustration — but it was immediate, just things that you thought you saw. Right after the game, you're fired up and still going with that same intensity and you're speaking how you're feeling. It's multiple and it's surrounded off of betterment and going forward and it's team building.

"I really believe that when you go through dismal times like this, it builds character. It shows you [what's] within and who has the rope and who's going to let go. I think it really separates the ones that are willing to fight and so far everybody's in here."

The meeting came after Garnett's first double-figure scoring game, but Monday had a hot start with a cold finish. He made his first six shots before missing 11 of his final 13.

"Well, I feel better about this group, man," Garnett said. "We still haven't been whole. We're still dealing with different ailments, and the minute we have all our guys back we go through something now. So it's just always something at this point. We're not using any excuses. We're not that type of team. We're all trying to find our identity and who we are and what we're going to be night in and night out and be consistent with that.

"It's easy to quit. It's easy to give up and walk up out of here and say, 'You know what this is too hard,' but we don't have that type of team nor do we have that type of character."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Kevin Garnett is averaging just 6.9 points per game with Brooklyn, less than half his career average. / GETTY IMAGES

Return of the star

Rangers' Nash excited to get back on ice

The Rangers were able to dress one of their cornerstone players Tuesday for the first time in 42 days.

Prior to Tuesday night's game against Boston, Rick Nash announced he would play after missing a month due to a concussion.

"Yes. Yes. [I'm] in tonight," Nash said following the morning skate at the Garden. "It's been a long six weeks, so [I'm] excited to get in there."

Rick Nash got 5:32 of ice time in the first period and saw a shift on the power play. / GETTY IMAGES

When he met with the media Tuesday morning, head coach Alain Vigneault announced Nash would receive about 15 minutes of ice time against the Bruins, which would consist of "a regular shift and, obviously, some power-play time."

Nash missed 17 games with post-concussion symptoms after absorbing an elbow to head from Sharks defenseman Brad Stuart in the Rangers' 9-2 loss in San Jose on Oct. 8. The Rangers (10-10-0) compiled a 9-8-0 mark in the 17 games Nash missed.

Prior to the concussion, Nash had been playing well despite not having a goal. He had three assists and nine shots on goal in 39:01 of ice time over the first three games of the season.

"He's been symptom-free and getting back at it now for anywhere from 10 days to two weeks," Vigneault said. "We went through the process. [He] feels real good, real fine and it's time to play."

There is a difference between practices and game action, a fact Nash was cognizant of.

"The first everything is going to take awhile, whether it is a hit, a shot, a pass, making different plays," Nash said. "[It was] a long time off, so it's going to take [a while]." **DENIS GORMAN**

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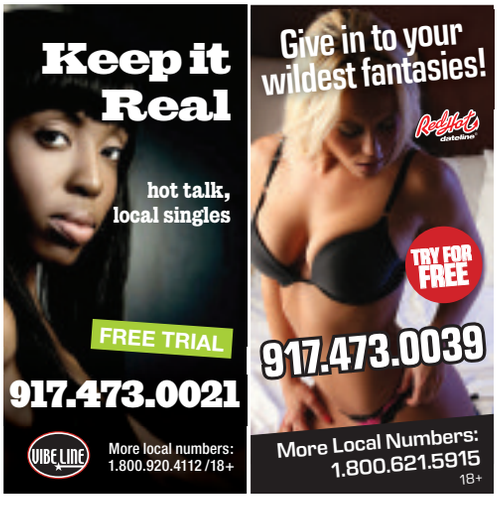

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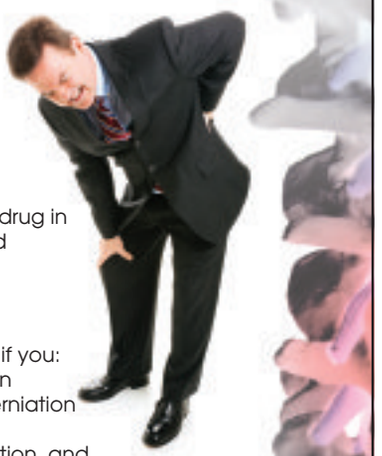

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Careers

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF FORMATION of OSB Enterprise LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on October 9, 2013. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 150 East 85th Street, Suite 7D, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful business.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1274759 for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 5915 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220 for on-premises consumption. Seafood Hot Pot Shi Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday December 04, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from 64 Greenwich Restaurant LLC to continue to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 64 Greenwich Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of two years.

REQUEST FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at Grand Central Terminal, Space LC#11, New York, NY 10017 for on-premises consumption. Compass Rose Sushi LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1274665 for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 599 East Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 for on-premises consumption. Massa 2 LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1274689 for On-Premises Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 131-01 Fowler Ave., 3rd Fl, Flushing, NY 11355 for on-premises consumption. Sunshine Cafe Inc.

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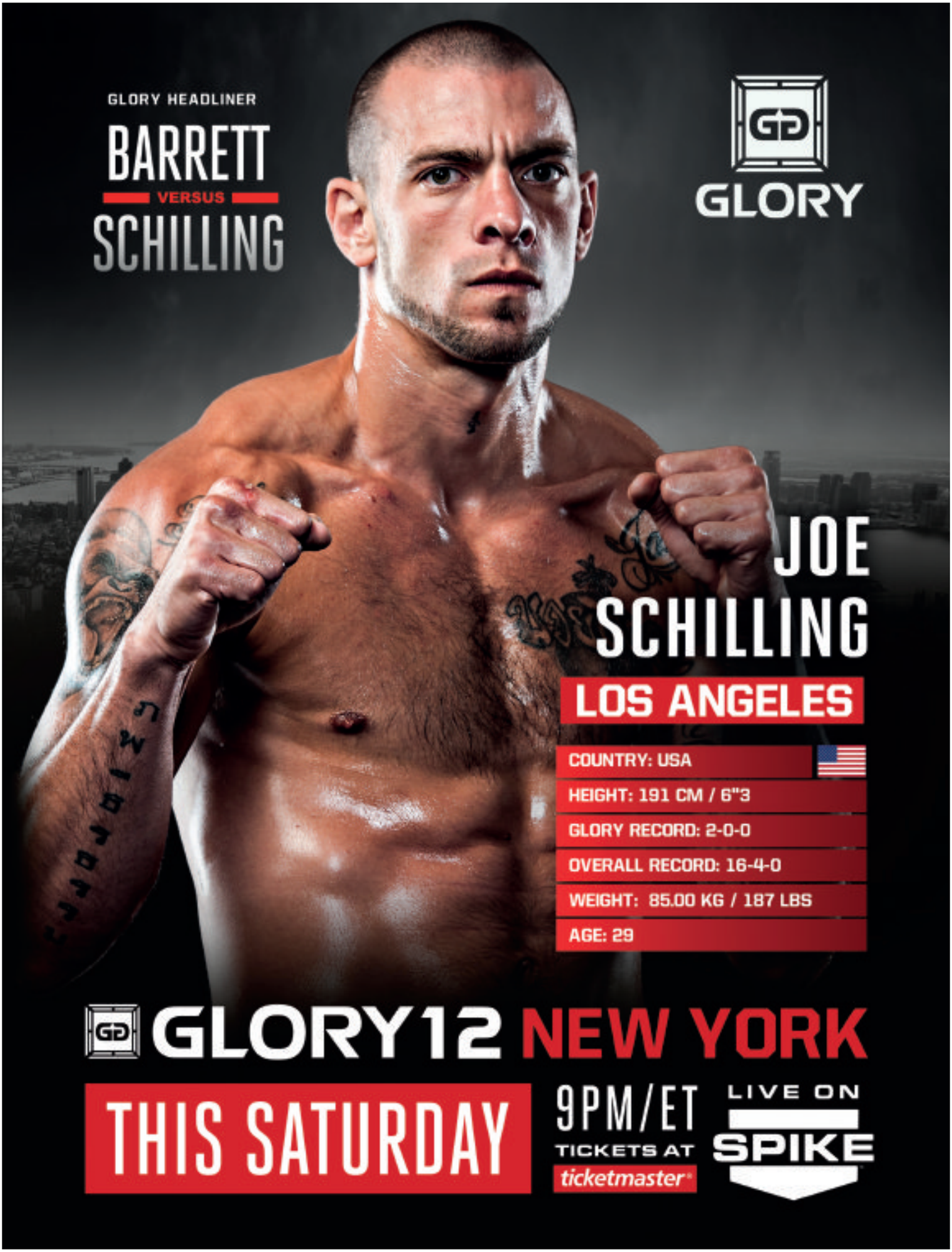
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